



Michelle A. Robinson
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Dominic M. Calabro
President & Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable Fred Costello
209 Dunlawton Avenue
Unit 15
Port Orange, FL 32127

March 18, 2016


Dear Representative Costello;

Florida TaxWatch commends your work, along with your colleagues, during the 2016 Legislative Session to fight for Floridians. Here at Florida TaxWatch, we believe that public officials should always be sensitive to the impact of increased taxes and work to ensure that the dollars of hard-working taxpayers are always being used in their best interests before subjecting them to a tax increase.

You truly are a champion for not only your constituents, but all of Florida's hard-working taxpayers. Your effort in opposing a proposed state-mandated property tax increase to fund record education spending was honorable, especially since the state had the necessary resources to fund education without the increase. Subjecting taxpayers to an increase on their property taxes when Tallahassee has the money available is irresponsible policy, especially when the country is facing uncertain economic times. TaxWatch has long recommended that the state bear more in educational funding than local government and applauds you for being one of very few to bring this issue to the forefront of the budget negotiations.

Additionally, we commend your tireless efforts to improve government transparency and accountability. Your bill to require an advertisement any time the state budget included an increase in the amount of Required Local Effort showed that you are willing to stand up for taxpayers when their government attempts to keep them in the dark.

The persistence and dedication you and you colleagues provided in protecting taxpayers led the Legislature to require additional state spending for education funding in the budget, rather than forcing local communities to shoulder more of the load through an increase in their property taxes. This work resulted in property tax relief for millions of hard-working Floridians, relief that belong to them and not government.

Thank you for your good work and God Bless.


Dominic M. Calabro
President & CEO